

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0029] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0029] A drive motor 32 is operably coupled to drive rod 22 to provide a motor-driven drive rod. As presently preferred, drive rod 22 is a one-piece element which extends through the gear set of drive motor 32 at the rearward portion of the drive motor 32. One ~~skill~~skilled in the art will recognize that the drive motor which is shown within the actuation 14 may be located at other positions. In this regard, the drive motor 32 may be located outboard of the location shown. For example, the drive motor 32 may be located within an arm or other cavity of one of the side frame assemblies. The front portion of the drive motor 32 is supported by motor brace 34 extending downwardly from front support shaft 24. The drive mechanism further includes motor control circuitry (not shown) to selectively operate the drive motor through the range of motion without overload thereof. A presently preferred drive motor is the subject of United States Application No. 10/196,851, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace Paragraph [0031] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0031] The support bracket 38 has a hook portion 42 which extends through a slot 44 formed in the rear frame rail member 18 and captures the upper edge 46 thereof. Support bracket 38 is cantilevered from the chair frame 12 and extends downwardly and forwardly from the rear frame rail member 18 and terminates at end 46

48 which receives one end of spring member 40. The bracket 38 is able to support the spring of the spring member 40 without fasteners securing it to the chair frame assembly ~~44~~12. As such, the position of the support bracket 38 relative to the rear frame rail ~~20~~may be 18 may be readily adjusted. A stud 50 (as shown in Figure 4) extends from pantograph linkage 30 and receives the other end of spring member 40. Return spring mechanism 36 biases the follower link 64 rearwardly in a counterclockwise direction to urge the pantograph linkage 30 towards the retracted position.

Please replace Paragraph [0032] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0032] Front frame member assembly ~~24~~20 is a multi-piece assembly including front frame board 52 and a pair of front frame brackets 54 extending from opposite lateral ends of front frame board 52. Spacer link 56 is interconnected between drive rod 22, front support shaft 24 and frame board 52 to further integrate actuation mechanism ~~46~~14 with chair frame assembly ~~44~~12.

Please replace Paragraph [0034] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0034] In this way, the front brace 60 and rear brace 58 may be separated to facilitate field service and replacement of the actuation mechanism without further requiring disassembly of the chair frame assembly ~~44~~12. Specifically, the drive rod 22 along with the drive motor 32 may be uncoupled and removed from the chair frame ~~44~~

assembly 12 without requiring excessive disassembly of the unit. Specifically, the spring members 40 are uncoupled from the follower link 64. Next, the various links – leg rest swing arm 74, follower link 64 and rear brace 58 – are uncoupled from the drive rod 22. Then, the rear brace 58 is uncoupled from the front brace 60 by removing fasteners 62. Lastly, the motor mount 34 is uncoupled from the drive motor 32. At this point the drive rod 22 and drive motor 32 may be moved laterally relative to the remaining component of the chair and removed therefrom. Once the drive motor 32 has been serviced or replaced, the drive rod 22 and drive motor may be re-installed using the reverse of the sequence described above.

Please replace Paragraph [0036] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0036] Similarly, pantograph linkage 30 is suspended from front support shaft 24 by leg rest swing bracket 72. Leg rest swing bracket 72 receives front support shaft 24 and is releasably secured to leg rest swing arm 74. Threaded fastener 76 releasably secures leg rest swing arm 74 with leg rest swing bracket 72. In this way, the pantograph linkage 30 may be detached from the drive rod 22 and front support shaft 24 to facilitate field service and replacement thereof without further requiring disassembly of the chair frame assembly 4412.

Please replace Paragraph [0041] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0041] A second embodiment of the reclining chair 10' having an actuation mechanism 14' is illustrated in ~~FIGS.~~Figures 8-14. Elements common to the first and second embodiments are designated with common reference numerals and their description is not repeated for the second embodiment. New elements of the second embodiment are designated with new reference numerals and are not followed by a prime.

Please replace Paragraph [0042] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0042] Referring to ~~FIGS.~~Figures 8 and 11, the reclining chair 10 includes an operator 154, which could be a powered actuator, such as an electric motor, a pneumatic drive, a hydraulic drive, or a gas-assisted spring drive or a manual actuator, such as a handle. In an embodiment which employs an electric motor, a corded or cordless handheld device (not shown) can be used to control the electric motor. The operator 154 imparts rotational motion to a drive shaft 156 which is coupled with a drive member 150 for rotation therewith. The operator 154 is preferably mounted outside the chair frame assembly 12 adjacent to one of the side frame members 16 for easy access or retrofitting of existing non-powered reclining chairs. It will be appreciated, however, that the operator 154 may be also mounted between the side frame members 16.

Please replace Paragraph [0044] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0044] In operation, selective rotation of the drive shaft 156 in a counterclockwise direction, as viewed in ~~FIGS.~~Figures 8 and 9, causes the drive member 150 to rotate counterclockwise engaging the follower member 152 and forcing the follower member 152 to also rotate counterclockwise. The follower member 152 causes the drive rod 22 to rotate in the counterclockwise direction. It will be appreciated that the characterizations "drive" and "follower" are relative characterizations which may correspond to interchangeable functions depending on a frame of reference. Thus, the follower member 152 follows drive member 150 with respect to the rotation of the drive shaft 156, while it functions as a driver with respect to the rotation of the drive rod 22. As the drive rod 22 rotates counterclockwise, so does the pantograph drive link 64, causing the right and left pantograph linkages 30 to extend, bringing the leg rest assembly 26 from a stowed or retracted position shown in Figure 12, to an extended or protracted position shown in ~~FIG.~~Figure 13.

Please replace Paragraph [0046] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0046] Counter rotation of the drive shaft 156 in a clockwise direction counter rotates the drive member 150. The rearward biasing force generated by the spring member 40 of the return spring mechanism 36 rotates the pantograph drive link 64 and drive rod 22 in a clockwise direction, thus moving the pantograph linkage 30 towards the retracted position while maintaining engagement of the follower link 152 with the drive link 150. Should the pantograph linkage 30 encounter an obstruction during counter rotation, follower ~~link-member~~ 152 disengages from drive ~~link-member~~ 150 and counter rotation of

the pantograph drive link 64 and rod 22 stops. Counter rotation of drive member 150 and drive shaft 156 continues as the operator 154 is further rotated in a clockwise direction. Further retraction of the pantograph linkage 30 is therefore prevented. Once the obstruction is removed, follower ~~link-member~~ 152 continues to counter rotate until it re-engages with the drive ~~link-member~~ 150 under the action of the springs 40, and the leg rest assembly 26 may be fully retracted by the return spring mechanism 36. In this manner, the drive shaft 156 cannot power-retract the leg rest assembly 26, when it is obstructed.

Please replace Paragraph [0047] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0047] While the foregoing description of the first embodiment 10 includes a motor-driven drive rod, one skilled in the art will recognize that a manually-operated drive rod could be employed with the present invention which prevents retraction of an unobstructed leg rest assembly. Likewise, the second preferred embodiment has been illustrated with a pair of return springs 40 interconnected between the chair frame 12 and the pantograph drive link 64. However, one skilled in the art will recognize that other biasing means may be employed to impart a counter rotation manual on the drive rod 22. For example, a single downwardly extending link ~~couple~~ coupled to the drive rod 22 and a single return spring interconnected between this link and the chair frame 12 could be used. Alternately, a toggle link mechanism for providing over-center biasing of the drive rod such as that described in U.S. Patent No. 5,382,073 could be used as biasing means in the present invention.